

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD
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NOTICE OF MEDICATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the **California Horse Racing Board's Medication Committee** will be held on, **Wednesday, January 21, 2004**, commencing at **2:00 p.m.**, at the **Holiday Inn – Monrovia**, 924 West Huntington Drive, **Monrovia**, California. Non-committee members attending the Board's committee meeting may participate in the public discussion, but shall not participate in any official committee vote or committee executive session.

Agenda Items

1. Discussion and action on the **proposal to use a survey to evaluate and quantify the use of "milkshakes" (alkalizing agents)** on the racetrack.
2. Review and discussion of **the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) Model Rules Recommendations**.
3. Report on **testing for erythropoietin (EPO) antibodies in horse racing in Ontario and New York**.

Additional information regarding the committee meeting may be obtained from Roy Minami, at the CHRB Administrative Office, 1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95825; telephone (916) 263-6000; fax (916) 263-6042. A copy of this notice can be located on the CHRB website at www.chrb.ca.gov *Information for requesting disability related accommodation for persons with a disability who requires aids or services in order to participate in this public meeting, should contact Roy Minami.

MEDICATION COMMITTEE

Chairman John C. Harris, Chairman
Commissioner William A. Bianco, Member

Date of Notice: January 9, 2004

STAFF ANALYSIS
DISCUSSION AND ACTION
ON THE PROPOSAL TO
USE A SURVEY TO
EVALUATE AND QUANTIFY
THE USE OF
“MILKSHAKES” (ALKALIZING AGENTS)
ON THE RACETRACK.

Medication Committee Meeting
January 21, 2004

BACKGROUND

The use of alkalizing agents, commonly known as “milkshakes”, in an attempt to alter performance is rumored to be in practice at racetracks in California.

Intense exercise leads to the production of lactic acid and the accumulation of lactic acid in the tissues is a factor in causing fatigue. The thought is that if the lactic acid can be neutralized by the administration of an alkaline substance such as bicarbonate, the onset of fatigue can be prolonged and therefore performance could theoretically be improved.

The scientific literature is divided as to whether or not this practice is successful in improving performance. There is agreement that if the practice is to be successful, it is most likely to be beneficial when the intense exercise lasts two minutes or longer.

Never the less, the rumors persist and the anecdotal perception is the “milkshakes” are being used.

ANALYSIS

In order to determine if “milkshake” rumors are true, it is proposed the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) and the racing industry conduct a non-regulatory survey of total carbon dioxide (TCO₂) levels in horses racing in Southern California. The level of TCO₂ in blood can be used to determine if an alkalizing agent has been administered.

Blood samples will be collected at random from 400 to 500 horses prior to racing. The samples will be collected in the receiving barn before the horses leave for the saddling paddock. The samples will be sent by overnight courier to the appropriate laboratory where the TCO₂ levels will be determined.

If the results of this proposed survey indicates that milkshakes are being administered to horses prior to racing, appropriate rules and procedures will need to be developed. If the results indicate that milkshakes are not being administered, no additional action other than continued vigilance will be required and hopefully the rumors will subside.

The cost of this proposed survey is estimated to be approximately \$5000. The current condition of the state budget makes it unlikely that money for the survey will be coming from state sources. Therefore, the cost of the survey will have to come from the racing industry.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented for discussion.

STAFF ANALYSIS
REVIEW AND DISCUSSION
OF THE
RACING MEDICATION
AND TESTING CONSORTIUM (RMTC)
MODEL RULES RECOMMENDATIONS

Medication Committee Meeting
January 21, 2004

BACKGROUND

The Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) is a national organization consisting of several racing organizations that represent owners, trainers, regulatory agencies, and veterinarians. The purpose of the consortium is to promote the development of uniform medication rules, policies and testing procedures among racing jurisdictions throughout the United States. The RMTC recently presented their recommendations for model medication rules to racing regulators during the University of Arizona Racing Symposium.

The RMTC recommendations dealing with bleeder medication, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) and anti-ulcer medications will be reviewed by CHRB's Equine Medical Director, Dr. Ronald Jensen. Some aspects of the RMTC's recommendations differ from the Board's current regulations.

It should be noted, that Executive Order S-2-03 dated November 17, 2003 ceases processing of any proposed rulemakings, for 180 days from the date of the order. This order will need to be lifted before the Board is able to undertake steps to revise its current regulations.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Committee hear from Dr. Jensen.

ITEM 3

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

January 21, 2004 Medication Committee Meeting

There is no board package material for this item.

Information to be presented at the committee meeting.